

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI LT. GOVERNOR

# STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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# PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH STATE LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION, 2015

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015 8:45 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 40 S.D.3 RELATING TO LICENSING

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 40 S.D.3, Relating to Licensing. My name is Daria Loy-Goto, Complaints and Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). RICO offers the following comments on the bill.

Senate Bill No. 40 S.D.3 establishes licensing requirements for the regulation of behavior analysts by the Department. The bill also sets forth conduct that

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 40 S.D.3 March 18, 2015 Page 2

would give rise to disciplinary action, exempts the regulation from sunrise review, and provides for a defective effective date.

RICO defers to the Department's Professional and Vocational Licensing

Division on the issue of a sunrise analysis and on the licensing provisions in the bill.

In prior testimony, RICO expressed concerns that the enforcement provisions in the bill were problematic. RICO appreciates the amendments by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection aimed at addressing the bill's previously identified enforcement issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 40 S.D.3. I will be happy to answer any questions that the members of the Committee may have.



DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR SHAN S. TSUTSUI

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# PRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2015

Friday, March 18, 2015 8:45 a.m.

# TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 40, S.D. 3, RELATING TO LICENSING.

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Celia Suzuki, Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill No. 40, S.D. 3, Relating to Licensing.

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 40, S.D. 3 is to establish the Behavior Analyst Program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, as well as to establish licensing requirements for behavior analysts. Funds shall also be appropriated for the implementation of the new regulatory program. The Department

also understands that the urgent need for this licensing program for behavior analysts is tied to the important public purpose being served by Senate Bill No. 791, S.D.1, Relating to Autism Spectrum Disorders, which would mandate insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism.

As a general rule, Section 26H-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), requires that new regulatory measures being considered for enactment be referred to the State Auditor for a sunrise analysis. Senate Bill 40, S.D. 3 deviates from this practice by including special carveout language in Section 4 of the bill that reads: "Section 26H-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not apply to this Act."

The Department fully recognizes and appreciates the intent of this bill and the desire to provide for licensure concurrent with the treatment options provided in Senate Bill No. 791, S.D.1. The Department respectfully asks the Committee to ensure that the proposed exemption from the sunrise study requirement in this measure is limited to fulfilling an exceptional need concering healthcare in the State, and this legislation should more clearly reflect the unique circumstances that would justify foregoing a sunrise analysis. The Department would appreciate the opportunity to work with the Committee on developing language for this bill that would help more clearly highlight these special circumstances.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 40, S.D. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>See</u> Standing Committee Report No. 524 from the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection for S.B. No. 40, S.D. 2, February 20, 2015. <u>See also Standing Committee Report No. 680 from the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on S.B. No. 40, S.D. 3, March 6, 2015.</u>



### STATE OF HAWAII

STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 18, 2015

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair House Committee on Health Twenty-Eighth Legislature State Capitol State of Hawaii Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Belatti and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 40 SD3 – Relating to Licensing

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF SB 40 SD3. The purpose of this bill is to establish the behavior analyst program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, establish licensing requirements for behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts, and to appropriate funds for the implementation of the behavior analyst program.

The passage of this bill would address the need to develop an infrastructure that supports licensed providers, specifically behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts. These groups of providers are recognized in providing treatment for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Currently, there is no system or process in place. We understand that the process for other national recognized providers is a long and rigorous process, one that could take up to five years.

With SB 791 – Relating to Autism Spectrum Disorders moving through the legislative process to provide mandated insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism, it is imperative that a licensing process begin this year. We appreciate the Legislature's proactive approach to establish a behavior analyst program that includes licensing for behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit supportive testimony for SB 40 SD3.

Sincerely,

Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.

**Executive Administrator** 

Rosie Rowe

Chair



March 18, 2015

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair House Committee on Health

Re: SB 40, SD3 – Relating to Licensing

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 40, SD3, which establishes licensure requirements for Behavioral Analysts. HMSA has comments on this Bill.

HMSA is aware of related legislation such as SB 791, SD1, that seeks to mandate insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder services. Should such legislation ultimately be enacted, it is critical that the Behavioral Analysts that provide applied behavioral analysis services be fully licensed, such as would be provided for under SB 40, SD3.

Given the specialized nature of services that are necessary for children with autism spectrum disorder services, it is imperative that those providers be of the highest quality. A licensure requirement will help to ensure those service providers to whom we will entrust those children, meet those professional standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify comment on SB 40, SD3.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman Vice President

Government Relations



1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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# THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-EIGTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

Committee on Health Testimony on S.B.40, SD 3 Relating to Licensing

Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 8:45 A.M. Conference Room 329

### Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center recently filed a lawsuit against the Department of Human Services to require them to cover ABA services under the Medicaid EPSDT program. In response to the lawsuit, the Department has issued a Memorandum detailing how services would be covered. There is a fair degree of ambiguity as to whether current ABA practitioners will be able to receive reimbursement or whether they must be state licensed in order to do so. For that reason it seems appropriate to begin discussions on licensure so that services can commence as quickly as possible.



3/18/15

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH** 

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Conference Room 329

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lara Bollinger and I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and the Treasurer of the Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis. I'm writing to you today to lend my support to Senate Bill 40 which would require licensure for Behavior Analysts in the state of Hawaii. I am in support of this bill to provide for increased consumer protection by ensuring that those providing behavior analysis services are competent to do so. I support the licensing of Board Certified Behavior Analysts as well as allowing Board Certified assistant Behavior Analysts and Registered Behavior Technicians to practice under the supervision of a Licensed Behavior Analyst.

Thank you for your time,

Ler Bt

Lara Bollinger, M.S.Ed., BCBA

Treasurer, Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis

Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA)

350 Ward Avenue Ste 106-221 Honolulu, HI 96814 www.hawaiiaba.org





COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

> Conference Room 329 Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creaga, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of SB40, which calls for licensure of behavior analysts. My name is Amanda N. Kelly, PhD, BCBA-D and I am the current President of the Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA). HABA is a professional organization that seeks to assist in the development and advancement of the field of behavior analysis within the state of Hawai'i through research, education, and dissemination of information. HABA represents Board Certified Behavior Analysts/-Doctoral (BCBA/BCBA-D) and Board Certified assistant Behavior Analysts (BcaBA) in Hawai'i.

Behavior analysis practitioners are currently credentialed in the form of an international certificate program administered through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). However, there is growing interest in licensure for behavior analysis practitioners at the state level. Reasons for moving in this direction include protecting the rights of behavior analysts to practice their discipline and increased consumer protection (APBA, 2009). On behalf of HABA, we are grateful for your consideration of this bill. We wish to submit testimony in **strong support of SB40-SD2**.

- 1) 19 States currently regulate the practice of behavior analysis <sup>1</sup>
  - i. 18 states license<sup>2</sup>: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Dakota, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin.
  - ii. 1 state provides certification at the state level: Ohio (although Ohio is currently seeking licensure)
  - iii. 16 states are currently pursuing licensure for behavior analysts (including Hawai'i)
- . 2) The Licensing of Behavior Analysts: Protecting the Profession and the Public (Hassert, Kelly, Pritchard, Cautilli, 2008): Applied behavior analysis is a hybrid tradition with roots in many mental health disciplines. Even with these diverse origins, the professional practice of behavior analysis remains distinct and identifiable. Increased demand for behavior analytic services, especially as regards autism, and increased practitioner numbers has combined with a shift from a growing

to maturing market (see Porter, 1980), in which educated consumers are less willing to accept uneven service quality, resulting in the public calling for the licensing of behavior analysis. The consumer's goal through licensing is to ensure stable, practically priced, and reliable source of distinctly behavior analytic providers and services. The behavior analyst goal is to build a quality image (Patton, 1959), while marketing key functions (Staudt, Taylor, & Bowersox, 1976) both of which licensing helps to achieve.

. 3) The Case for Licensure of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)<sup>4</sup> (Dorsey, Weinberg, Zane, Guidi, 2009): One potential downside of the increased recognition of the practice of ABA is an influx of individuals seeking to prosper from this opportunity who may have little or no training or experience in ABA – placing both the consumers of their services and the field at large at risk. Some consumers may not be able to discriminate between adequately and inadequately trained providers, and they may trust providers who insist that they are "just as well trained" and have "many years of experience" in ABA.

After reviewing the current draft of SB40, I would like to submit a few minor/non-substantive edits for the committee's consideration, on behalf of HABA. We have attached the bill with the proposed edits highlighted for your convenience. The only notable change is clarification that the federal government does not require licensure for ABA services to be provided.

Thank you again for your consideration of this bill and for the opportunity to submit our testimony in **strong support of SB40-SD2**.

Malama our keiki,

Amanda Kelly, Ph.D., BCBA-D 2015 HABA President

<sup>1</sup> http://www.apbahome.net/APBALicensure.php 2 http://www.apbahome.net/pdf/State%20Regulation%20of%20BA%20062314%20V2.png

<sup>3</sup> http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ829086.pdf 4 http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2854065/pdf/i1998-1929-2-1-53.pdf

# THE SENATE

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015 40-S.D. 2 STATE OF HAWAII

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSING.

# BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the practice of behavior analysis in Hawaii affects the public's health safety, and welfare. The legislature further finds that behavior analysts and the practice of behavior analysis should be subject to regulation and control to protect the public from the unqualified practice of behavior analysis and from unprofessional conduct by persons licensed to practice behavior analysis.

The legislature additionally finds that certain measures introduced during the regular session of 2015 provide mandated insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism. If such legislation is ultimately enacted, it is critical that behavior analysts, who engage in the practice of behavior analysis with individuals with autism, be fully licensed. Federal requirements specify providers of services must be licensed in their

profession in order to participate in Medicaid. Furthermore, health insurance plans in Hawaii will not provide reimbursement for services provided by behavior analysts unless those individuals are licensed in the State.

The legislature notes that it is imperative that the licensing of behavior analysts begin concurrently with any mandated insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to address the urgent need for a licensing process for behavior analysts by establishing the behavior analyst program within the department of commerce and consumer affairs and establishing licensing requirements for the practice of behavior analysis by behavior analysts.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows: "CHAPTER

# **BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS**

§-1 Definitions. For the purposes of

this chapter:

"Applied behavior analysis" means

interventions that are based on scientific research and the direct observation and measurement of behavior and the environment.

"Behavior Analyst Certification Board" means the international accredited Behavior Analyst Certification Board or its successor.

"Department" means the department of commerce and consumer affairs.

"Director" means the director of commerce and consumer affairs.

"Licensed behavior analyst" means a person:

- (1) Who engages in the practice of behavior analysis and uses the title of licensed behavior analyst;
- (2) Who has been issued a license under this chapter; and
- (3) Whose license is in effect and not revoked, suspended, or encumbered.

"Practice of behavior analysis" means the design, implementation, and evaluation of instructional and environmental modifications to produce socially significant improvements in human behavior. Practice of behavior analysis includes the empirical identification of functional relations between behavior and environmental factors, known as functional assessment and analysis. Practice of behavior analysis also includes the use of contextual factors, motivating operations, antecedent stimuli, positive reinforcement, and other consequences to help people develop new behaviors, increase or decrease existing behaviors, and emit behaviors under specific

environmental conditions. Practice of behavior analysis expressly excludes psychological testing, diagnosis of a mental or physical disorder, neuropsychology, psychotherapy, cognitive therapy, sex therapy, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy, and long-term counseling as treatment modalities.

- § -2 Behavior analyst program; established; personnel. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, there is established a behavior analyst program within the department to be administered by the director.
- (b) The department may employ necessary personnel without regard to chapter 76 to assist with the implementation and continuing functions of this chapter.
- §-3 License required. (a) Beginning on January 1, 2016, except as specifically provided in this chapter, no person shall engage in the practice of behavior analysis or use the title "licensed behavior analyst" or "behavior analyst" without a valid license issued pursuant to this chapter.
- (b) Any person who violates this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 for each separate offense. Each day of each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

# § -4 Powers and duties of the director.

In addition to any other powers and duties authorized by law, the director shall have the

powers and duties to:

- (1) Grant, deny, renew, refuse to renew, restore, terminate, reinstate, condition, restrict, suspend, or revoke a license issued pursuant to this chapter;
- (2) Grant permission to a person to engage in the practice of behavior analysis and to use the title of "licensed behavior analyst" or a description indicating that the person is a licensed behavior analyst in this State;
- (3) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules pursuant to chapter 91 as the director finds necessary to carry out this chapter;
- (4) Administer, coordinate, and enforce this chapter;
- (5) Discipline a licensed behavior analyst on grounds specified by this chapter or chapter 436B or for any violation of rules adopted by the director pursuant to this chapter; and
- (6) Refuse to license a person for failure to meet the licensing requirements in this chapter or for any reason specified by this chapter as grounds to discipline a behavior analyst including but not limited to violations of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's ethical guidelines standards for responsible conduct.
- §-5 Fees; disposition. (a) Upon issuance of a new license and at each license renewal period, each behavior analyst shall pay, in addition to a license fee or renewal fee, a surcharge of \$ , which shall be maintained in a separate account within the compliance resolution fund established pursuant to

section 26-9(o). At the end of each quarter, the moneys contained in the separate account established pursuant to this section shall be transferred to the compliance resolution fund

until such time that the total transferred amounts equal the amount appropriated in section 4 of Act , Session Laws of Hawaii 2015. Thereafter, no surcharge shall be assessed, and any funds in excess of the amount appropriated in section 4 of Act , Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, shall be deposited into the compliance resolution fund.

- (b) Application fees paid pursuant to this chapter shall not be refundable. Pursuant to section 26-9(1), the director shall establish examination, reexamination, license, renewal, restoration, enforcement, and other fees relating by rule.
- (c) shall be to the administration of this chapter. Fees assessed pursuant to this chapter used to defray costs incurred by the department in implementing this chapter.
- §-6 Exemptions. (a) This chapter is not intended to restrict the practice of other licensed or credentialed healthcare practitioners practicing within their own recognized scopes of practice and shall not apply to:
- (1) An individual working within the scope of practice or duties of another licensed profession that overlaps with the practice of

behavior analysis; provided that the person does not purport to be a behavior analyst;

(2) An individual who implements or designs applied behavior analysis services and possesses board certification as an assistant behavior analyst by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board and who

practices in accordance with the most recent supervisory and ethical requirements adopted by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board under the direction of a behavior analyst licensed in this State;

- (3) An individual who directly implements applied behavior analysis services, is credentialed as a registered behavior technician by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, and is under the direction of a behavior analyst licensed in this State;
- (4) A family member implementing an applied behavior analysis plan within the home who acts under the direction of a behavior analyst licensed in this State;
- (5) An individual who engages in the practice of behavior analysis with nonhuman or nonpatient clients or consumers including but not limited to applied animal behaviorists and practitioners of organizational behavior management;
- (6) A matriculated graduate student or postdoctoral fellow whose activities are part of a defined behavior analysis program of study, practicum, or intensive practicum; provided that the student's or fellow's activities or practice is directly supervised by a behavior analyst licensed in this State or an instructor in a Behavior Analyst Certification Board- approved course sequence; or
- (7) An individual pursuing experience in behavior analysis consistent with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's

experience requirements; provided that the experience is supervised by a behavior analyst licensed in this State.

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent any licensed psychologist from engaging in the practice of behavior analysis in this State as long as the person is not in any manner held out to the public as a "licensed behavior analyst" or "behavior

analyst" and the behavior analysis services provided by the licensed psychologist are within the licensed psychologist's recognized scope of practice.

- §-7 Application for licensure. The department shall issue a license under this chapter to an applicant for behavior analyst if the applicant provides satisfactory evidence to the department that the applicant meets the requirements for licensure contained in this chapter and rules adopted by the director and if the applicant for behavior analyst:
- (1) Successfully passed the Board Certified Behavior Analyst examination;
- (2) Maintains active status with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board as a board certified behavior analyst or board certified behavior analyst-doctoral; and
- (3) Pays all fees for licensure established by the director.
- §-8 Licensure by endorsement. The director may issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who holds a current and

unencumbered license as a behavior analyst in another state; provided that the requirements for a license in that state are deemed by the director to be equivalent to or higher than the current requirements for licensure in this State.

§-9 Renewal of license. Licenses issued pursuant to this chapter shall be valid for two years and shall be renewed upon the payment of a renewal fee within sixty days before the

expiration of the license. Failure to renew a license shall result in forfeiture of that license. Licenses that have been forfeited may be restored within one year of the forfeiture date upon payment of renewal and restoration fees. Failure to restore a forfeited license within one year shall result in the automatic termination of the license. A person whose license has been terminated pursuant to this section shall be required to reapply for a new license as a new applicant.

§-10 Grounds for refusal to renew, reinstate, or restore a license and for denial, revocation, suspension, or condition of a license. (a) In addition to any other acts or conditions provided by law, the director may refuse to renew, reinstate, or restore and may deny, revoke, suspend, or condition in any manner any license for any one or more of the following acts or conditions on the part of a licensee or license applicant:

- (1) Failure to meet or to maintain the conditions and requirements necessary to qualify for the granting of a license;
- (2) Engaging in false, fraudulent, or deceptive advertising, or making untruthful or improbable statements in advertising;
- (3) Engaging in the practice of behavior analysis while impaired by alcohol, drugs, physical disability, or mental instability;
- (4) Procuring through fraud, misrepresentation, or deceit a license to engage in the practice of behavior analysis;
- (5) Aiding and abetting an unlicensed person to directly or indirectly perform activities requiring a license for the practice of behavior

# analysis;

- (6) Engaging in professional misconduct, incompetence, gross
- negligence, or manifest incapacity in the practice of behavior analysis; (7) Engaging in conduct or a practice contrary to recognized standards of the most recent ethical guidelines standards for the practice of behavior analysis as adopted by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board;
- (8) Violating any condition or limitation imposed by the director on a license to practice behavior analysis;
- (9) Engaging in the practice of behavior analysis in a manner that causes injury to one or more members of the public;
- (10) Failing to comply with, observe, or adhere to any law in a manner that causes the director to determine that the applicant or holder is unfit to hold a license;

- (11) Having a license revoked or suspended or other disciplinary action by any state or federal agency for any reason that is provided by the applicable licensing laws or by this section;
- (12) Having been convicted or pleaded nolo contendere to a crime directly related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the practice of behavior analysis;
- (13) Failing to report in writing to the director any disciplinary decision issued against the licensee or applicant in another jurisdiction within thirty days of the disciplinary decision;
- (14) Failing to report in writing to the director the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's revocation of the certification of a licensee or applicant within fifteen days of the revocation;
- (15) Employing, whether gratuitously or for pay, any person not licensed or exempted pursuant to this chapter to perform the functions or duties of the practice of behavior analysis; or
- (16) Violating this chapter, chapter 436B, or any rule or order of the

### director.

(b) Any licensee or applicant who violates
this section may also be fined not more than
\$1,000 per violation."

SECTION 3. Section 26H-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

# "§26H-4 Repeal dates for newly enacted professional and vocational regulatory programs.

(a) Any professional or vocational regulatory program enacted after January 1,

1994, and listed in this section shall be repealed as specified in this section. The auditor shall perform an evaluation of the program, pursuant to section 26H-5, prior to its repeal date.

- (b) Chapter 466D (respiratory therapists) shall be repealed on June 30, 2016.
- (c) Chapter 436H (athletic trainers) shall be repealed on June 30, 2018.
- (d) Chapter (behavior analysts) shall be repealed on June 30,."

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the compliance resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-9(o), Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to implement the behavior analyst program established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of commerce and consumer affairs

for the purposes of this Act. SECTION 5. New statutory material is

underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on

July 1, 2015.

# **Report Title:**

Licensing; Practice of Behavior Analysis; Behavior Analysts; Behavior Analyst Program; Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Appropriation

# **Description:**

Establishing the behavior analyst program within the department of commerce and consumer

affairs. Establishes licensing requirements for behavior analysts. Appropriates funds for the implementation of the behavior analyst program. (SD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



3/18/15
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Conference Room 329

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the committee,

My name is Johanna Taylor and I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) residing on the Big Island. I hold a PhD in Early Intervention with an emphasis on individuals with autism and related disorders.

I <u>strongly support SB40 SD2</u> for licensure of behavior analysts. Please consider this bill, which strengthens protection for individuals receiving applied behavior analysis (ABA) services in the state of Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Johanna P. Taylor, PhD., BCBA
Neighbor Island Representative
Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis
info@hawaiiaba.org





House Health Committee Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 329

Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to strongly endorse bill SB40 requiring licensure for behavior analysts, and I recommend it pass without delay, as there will many challenges regarding service delivery and treatment until such licensure is adopted.

Autism insurance legislation and licensure legislation were both written in the same spirit, in order for people with autism to gain access to the most effective treatment. Current autism insurance legislation calls for the licensure of behavior analysts, so without this licensure legislation, all of your efforts working for solutions regarding access and the most effective treatment for autism will be further delayed, which I don't believe was the intent of either of these initiatives. I strongly endorse bill SB40 in order to ensure people with autism gain access to the most effective treatment, and as a matter of consumer protection.

Respectfully Submitted, Molly Benson M.S. Sp.Ed BCBA



03/18/2015

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Conference Room 329

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the committee,

My name is Kristen Koba-Burdt and I am Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) living on Maui. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of SB40 SD3, as written.

Establishing licensure of behavior analysts will help to strengthen the profession here in the islands. Additionally, licensure and regulation at the state level will help to ensure consumers receive treatment from qualified professionals.

Mahalo for your support,

BURD

Kristen Koba-Burdt, M.S., BCBA

Vice-President, Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA) Behavioral Services Manager, BAYADA Habilitation —Maui

kkoba-burdt@BAYADA.com



3/18/15

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH** 

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Conference Room 329

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

### Members of the Committee on Health:

My name is Sara Sato and I was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and hold a Master's Degree in Special Education with an Autism and Severe Disabilities Specialization from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I have been working with children with Autism for the past 16 years. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in support of SB40: Relating to Licensing Behavior Analysts.

The practice of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) focuses on making socially significant behavior change to individuals. ABA practitioners systematically apply evidence based procedures based on the principles of Behavior and Learning, frequently monitor progress by collecting data and graphing, make changes based on the information gathered, and promote the generalization of the skills learned. These procedures are extremely effective at teaching individuals to develop positive repertoires and eliminate behavior that is inappropriate.

I support licensure of Behavior Analysts in Hawai'i. As a BCBA, I have seen significant results produced as a result of the competent application of ABA. Additionally, as Behavior Analysts we follow a strict code of ethics that hold us to a high standard of professionalism. I am proud of the work that I do and stand behind our practice. Adding licensure would put our practice at an even higher standard which will ensure the consumer is receiving the best quality services they deserve.

Thank you again for the opportunity to voice my support for this important bill.

Sincerely,

Sara Sato, M.Ed., BCBA

Legislative Co-Chair

Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis



March 18, 2015 Conference Room 329 8:45 am

House Committee on Health Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

State Capitol 415 South Beretania St Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: In Support of SB40 SD3

Relating to Licensing. Establishing the behavior analyst program within the department of commerce and consumer affairs. Establishes licensing requirements for behavior analysts. Appropriates funds for the implementation of the behavior analyst program.

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

I am Michael Wasmer, Director of State Government Affairs at Autism Speaks, the parent of a child with autism, and a consumer of Applied Behavior Analysis services for my child. Autism Speaks is the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Autism Speaks is pleased to submit testimony in strong support of SB40 SD3.

Autism Speaks has worked to pass autism insurance legislation in 38 states. In most of those states, insurance companies reimburse practitioners of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) on the basis of their national board certification, without the need for state licensure. As such, we know that licensure is not a prerequisite to insurance reimbursement for ABA services. Nevertheless, we support the professionalization of the ABA field and support the ability of states to protect consumers of ABA services, who are typically (though not always) individuals with autism. Many consumers of ABA services are children; some ABA consumers are nonverbal; as such, it is appropriate for the state to take an interest in regulating the providers who work with these individuals.

The professionals who design and oversee an ABA program for an individual with autism are called "behavior analysts." Behavior analysts can be certified by a non-profit national entity, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), which itself is credentialed by the National Commission on Certifying Agencies. The requirements to become a Board Certified Behavior



Analyst (BCBA) are stringent, and they appropriately form the basis for state licensure of behavior analysts in the 19 states that now license behavior analysts.

Autism Speaks would like to address two incorrect statements in the preamble to SB 40 SD3. We would recommend that the following statements be deleted or corrected:

"Federal requirements specify providers of services must be licensed in their profession in order to participate in medicaid."

Under 42 CFR 440.130(c): Preventative Services, Medicaid allows services to be delivered by non-licensed providers if recommended by licensed personnel.

"Furthermore, health insurance plans in Hawaii will not provide reimbursement for services provided by behavior analysts unless those individuals are licensed in the State."

As mentioned earlier in our testimony, licensure is not a requirement for reimbursement of services provided by behavior analysts. Twenty four (24) states that require insurance coverage for ABA do not require licensure of BCBAs (see attached map). Therefore, failure to enact licensure requirements for BCBAs in Hawaii should not preclude the enactment of legislation that would allow for insurance coverage of ABA provided by non-licensed BCBAs.

During the debate on SB 40 certain provider organizations have suggested that non-licensed BCBAs should be required to work under the supervision of a licensed psychologist. Autism Speaks strongly opposes this suggestion and believe that BACB certification is sufficient to practice independently.

We encourage the committee to pass SB40 SD3, and we look forward to working with you to ensure smooth and timely implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

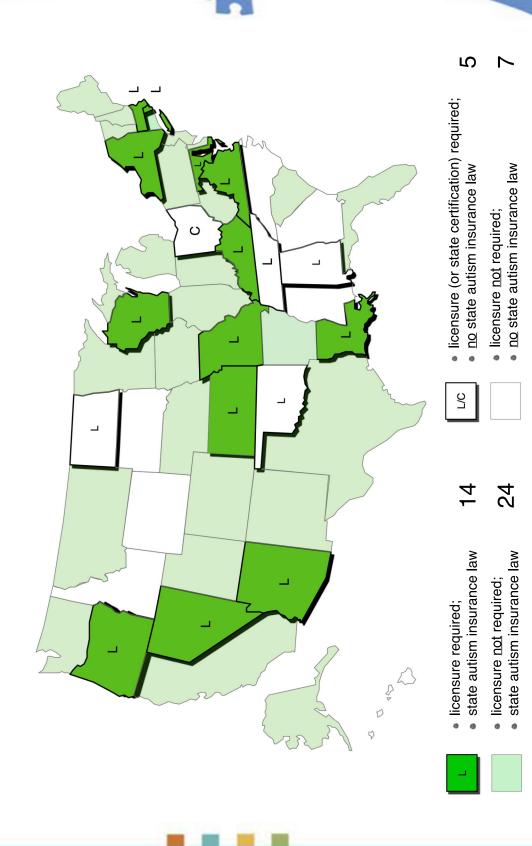
Michael Wasmer

Director, State Government Affairs

Autism Speaks

michael.wasmer@autismspeaks.org

# Licensure of Behavior Analysts



March 2015



# SEAC

# Special Education Advisory Council 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814 Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov March 18, 2015

### **Special Education Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair* Ms. Martha Guinan. *Vice Chair* 

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta

Dr. Tammy Bopp

Dr. Robert Campbell

Ms. Deborah Cheeseman

Ms. Annette Cooper

Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen, liaison to the Superintendent

Ms. Gabriele Finn

Ms. Jenny Gong

Ms. Natalie Haggerty

Ms. Barbara Ioli

Ms. Valerie Johnson

Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa

Ms. Bernadette Lane

Ms. Dale Matsuura

Ms. Stacey Oshio

Ms. Zaidarene Place

Ms. Barbara Pretty

Ms. Kau'i Rezentes

Ms. Rosie Rowe

Dr. Patricia Sheehey

Mr. Tom Smith

Ms. Lani Solomona

Dr. Todd Takahashi

Dr. Daniel Ulrich

Dr. Amy Wiech Ms. Cari White

Ms. Jasmine Williams

Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff Susan Rocco, Staff Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair House Committee on Health State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 40, SD 3 - Relating to Licensing

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** the intent of SB 40, SB 3 that establishes a behavior analyst program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders make up about 7% of the public school special education population. Research has shown that applied behavioral analysis provides the best support in treating the symptoms of autism, including difficulties communicating and socializing. SB 40, SD 3 will help to facilitate the availability of qualified providers to children and young adults with disabilities and create the licensure required for insurance coverage of autism treatment services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, I would be happy to address them.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



3/18/15 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

> Conference Room 329 Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Re: SUPPORT for SB40 SD3 – Relating to Licensing

Honorable Representative Belatti, Vice-Chair Creagan, and Committee Members,

My name is Anne Lau, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and member of the Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis Board of Directors. Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 40- SD3.

We look forward to the increased consumer protection that will be afforded with the successful passage of this bill. Thank you so much for addressing this important issue.

Sincerely,

Anne Lau, M.Ed. BCBA Legislative Co-Chair Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis

### **COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Rep. Della Au Bellati, Chair Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist 1833 Kalakaua Ave. Suite 908 Honolulu, HI 96815

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Honorable Chair Bellati, Honorable Vice Chair Creagan, and esteemed members of the House Committees on Health, in regards to SB 40, SD 3 SSCR 680 that establishes the behavior analyst program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and establishes licensing requirements for behavior analysts, <u>I am in support of this bill</u>, as an individual psychologist, and as the Chair of the Children's Committee of the Hawai'i Psychological Association.

My name is Jeffrey Stern and I am a psychologist that has provided intensive behavioral support services, including Applied Behavior Analysis, to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder for more than 15 years here in Honolulu. I am very pleased to see a licensure requirement moving forward so quickly for Board Certified Behavior Analysts, and I am also pleased to see that allied professionals, including psychologists, with ample experience and training can continue to provide ABA services to children with ASD as part of their scope of service.

I would, however, like to ask the esteemed members of this committee to consider an amendment. I'd ask that licensed Behavior Analysts providing supervision to those seeking licensure as Behavior Analysts be required to demonstrate competency in supervision via documentation of required supervision training, which the BACB now requires (as of 12/31/2014) in order to supervise aspiring behavior analysts. This training is not required of all BCBAs, only those who plan to supervise. (see <a href="http://www.bacb.com/Downloadfiles/supervisor\_curriculum.pdf">http://www.bacb.com/Downloadfiles/supervisor\_curriculum.pdf</a>) This 8-hour training requirement can be completed online, so it is not particularly burdensome. This will ensure that BCBAs seeking licensure receive adequate supervision. I spoke with Amanda Kelly of HABA about this and she explained to me that any BCBA that supervises others must be certified, but I still think that our law should reflect this requirement.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D Past President, Hawai'i Psychological Association



### COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII

1177 Alakea Street · B-100 · Honolulu · HI · 96813 TEL: (808) 586-5363 · TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 · FAX: (808) 586-5366

March 17, 2015

Representative Della Au Belatti Chair House Committee on Health – Hawaii State Capitol

# RE: SB 40, SD3- RELATING TO LICENSING

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committee,

The 17 Community Children's Councils (CCCs) of Hawaii **strongly supports SB 40, SD3** which establishes the behavior analysis program within the department of commerce and consumer affairs. It further establishes licensing requirements for behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts.

Behavior analysts are educated in Applied Behavior Analysis which is a well-developed discipline with established standards for evidence-based practice. The following outlines the various levels who may work with a child. (www.bacb.com)

### Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA®)/Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst® (BCaBA®):

The BCBA conducts descriptive and systematic behavioral assessments, including functional analyses, and provides behavior analytic interpretations of the results. The BCBA designs and supervises behavior analytic interventions. The BCBA is able to effectively develop and implement appropriate assessment and intervention methods for use in unfamiliar situations and for a range of cases. The BCBA seeks the consultation of more experienced practitioners when necessary. The BCBA teaches others to carry out ethical and effective behavior analytic interventions based on published research and designs and delivers instruction in behavior analysis. BCBAs supervise the work of Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts and others who implement behavior analytic interventions.

### Registered Behavior Technician<sup>TM</sup> (RBT<sup>TM</sup>):

The RBT is a paraprofessional who practices under the close, ongoing supervision of a BCBA or BCaBA ("designated RBT supervisor"). The RBT is primarily responsible for the direct implementation of skill-acquisition and behavior-reduction plans developed by the supervisor. The RBT may also collect data and conduct certain types of assessments (e.g., stimulus preference assessments). The RBT does not design intervention or assessment plans. It is the responsibility of the designated RBT supervisor to determine which tasks an RBT may perform as a function of his or her training, experience, and competence. The designated RBT supervisor is ultimately responsible for the work performed by the RBT.

These two levels are essential as the BCBA/BCaBA would work hand in hand with the RBT (direct service provider). Recognizing this license in Hawaii will allow many more children and adults with disabilities to receive much needed services which ultimately will improve their quality of life and decrease long-term costs for the State.

The CCCs are community-based bodies comprised of parents, professionals in both public and private agencies and other interested persons who are concerned with specialized services provided to Hawaii's students. Membership is diverse, voluntary and advisory in nature. The CCCs are in rural and urban communities organized around the Complexes in the Department of Education.

We respectfully request your consideration of SB 40, SD3. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Community Children's Council Office (CCCO) at 586-5363. Thank you for considering our testimony,

Tom Smith, Co-Chair (Original signatures are on file with the CCCO)

Jessica Wong-Sumida, Co-Chair





Administrative Offices 710 Green Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Phone: 808.536.1015 Toll Free: 888.241.7450 Fax: 808.536.3765

March 17, 2015

To: Committee on Health

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Ron Brandvold, President and CEO

Re: Support for SB 40/SD 3: Relating to Licensing

Hearing Scheduled for: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 (8:45 am)

For over 60 years, Easter Seals Hawaii has provided exceptional, individualized, family-centered services to empower infants, children, youth and adults with disabilities or special needs to achieve their goals and live independent fulfilling lives. Easter Seals Hawaii is a statewide CARF accredited organization with 15 facilities from Waimea, Kauai to Hilo, Hawaii providing a variety of programs including Autism Services. These services include Applied Behavior Analysis /Verbal Behavior-Based Therapy, Speech/Language Pathology, Assessment, Training, Education and Consultation.

Easter Seals Hawaii supports the intent and licensing requirements for the practice of behavior analysis as set forth in SB 40/SD3.

**SB 40/SD3** follows the professional credentialing standards of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), a non-profit corporation whose mission is to protect consumers of behavior analysis services by establishing, promoting and disseminating professional standards. Such uniform standards as found in **SD 40/SD3** meet the legal standards established through state, national, and case law, align with accepted standards for certification programs, and meet "best practices" and ethical standards of the behavior analysis profession.

**SB 40/SD3** licensing requirements also recognize the tiered service delivery model with a Behavior Analyst's clinical, supervisory, and case management activities supported by other staff working within the scope of their training, practice, competence, and licensure, thus helping to ensure costeffective treatment. Under **SB 40/SD 3** only behavior analysts must seek licensure through the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). Other key professions are recognized and exempt from licensure (e.g. assistant behavior analyst and registered behavior technician) but their work must be under the direction of or supervised by a licensed behavior analyst. Finally, **SB 40/SD 3** provides for licensure by DCCA by endorsement for those holding a current license in another State thereby expediting the process.

Thank you for noting the urgent need for a licensing process for behavior analysts in Hawaii who support individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families. And thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



Testimony of Phyllis Dendle Director, Government Relations

Before:

The House Committee on Health The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

> March 18, 2015 8:45 am Conference Room 329

### SB 40 SD3 RELATING TO LICENSING

Chair Belatti and committee members thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill to create a licensing program for behavior analysts.

# Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

Bills pending before the legislature would require licensing for behavior analysts. This is in part because the individuals treated by behavior analysts are among the most vulnerable people in our population; many with limited language skills. This treatment is also performed frequently in the individuals' home. It is in the interest of these children and their families that the state license and regulate people who perform behavior analysis to assure both their quality and the safety of the people they serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

711 Kapiolani Blvd Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Telephone: 808-432-5210 Facsimile: 808-432-5906 Mobile: 808-754-7007 E-mail: phyllis.dendle@kp.org

3/18/15 Committee on Health Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair Rep. Richard P/ Creagan, Vice Chair Conference Room 329 Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

To whom it may concern:

I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst providing ABA to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder on the island of Oahu. I commend the senate for introducing Senate Bill 40 on Licensure for Behavior Analysts. Please help us ensure that ABA services be performed by qualified individuals only; for the protection of our Ohana (consumers).

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bradler, M. Ed. BCBA

# creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:08 PM

To: HLTtestimony

Cc: fpenland@gmail.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB40 on Mar 18, 2015 08:45AM

# **SB40**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2015 08:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Benjamin Penland	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please ensure that only qualified professionals (behavior analysts) receive licensure to provide behavioral therapy to our keiki with autism.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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### creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:28 PM

To: HLTtestimony

Cc: starsister2000@yahoo.com

Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB40 on Mar 18, 2015 08:45AM\*

# **SB40**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2015 08:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Bonnie Koba	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

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### creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:24 PM

To: HLTtestimony Cc: bburdt3@gmail.com

Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB40 on Mar 18, 2015 08:45AM\*

# **SB40**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2015 08:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Brian Burdt	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

> Conference Room 329 Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Bellati, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the committee,

I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and I support SB40 for BCBA Licensure as it is written.

For the past 25 years I have worked in a variety of settings to create programs that support people with learning, intellectual and developmental disabilities. It has been my life's work to create programs that provide the highest quality and levels of independence for people and their families.

Behavior Analysis is a treatment intervention that has the ability to really change the lives of people with autism and their families. Having someone with the right credentials, training, ethics and treatment interventions is imperative to ensure the proper safeguards are in place to protect our children.

Please support SB40 for the children and their families that we all support!

Thanks you,

Anastasia Keller-Collins, MED, BCBA, CTRS

3/18/15

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

> Conference Room 329 Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha,

My name is Stephen J McGrail and I have been practicing pharmacy in the state of Hawaii for over 20 years. Unfortunately I see the problems that arise when patients are unable to obtain their medications on a daily basis. I have seen insurance companies limit patients access to health care in many ways: by restricting medications on a formulary or limiting which medical providers that a person can see for treatment. I stand with many other pharmacists on Maui that support Autism Insurance Reform, and support Senate Bill 40 for BCBA Licensure as written.

Thank you,

Stephen J McGrail R.Ph